

# Israeli, Palestinian youth fear conflict will 'never end,' says poll

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Thu, 2020-01-16 16:36

GAZA: The majority of young Israelis and Palestinians believe the conflict between their peoples "will never end," according to a survey published Thursday by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Sixty five percent of Israeli millennials surveyed and 52 percent of their Palestinian counterparts said they expected the conflict to continue in perpetuity, the ICRC said in a statement.

It said they were the most pessimistic of a series of war-affected populations surveyed in a global poll of more than 16,000 people aged between 20 and 35.

The global poll found more than half feared there would be a nuclear attack in the next decade.

"In general, the results indicate that millennials are nervous about the future, and heightened tensions in the Middle East are likely to deepen these fears," the ICRC said in a statement.

The simmering conflict has been ongoing for decades and there are currently no peace talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

Israel occupied the West Bank and east Jerusalem in a 1967 war and later annexed the flashpoint holy city in a move never recognized by the international community.

Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas and allied militant groups have fought three wars with Israel since 2008.



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Palestine government, Christians slam Israel for insufficient action on church attack  
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## [UN Yemen envoy Griffiths thanks all parties for truce efforts as Zinjibar pullout begins](#)

Thu, 2020-01-16 18:11

NEW YORK: UN Yemen envoy Martin Griffiths said on Thursday at the UN Security Council that any escalation of violence in Yemen could not be reduced without a political process, but thanked parties – including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – for their work toward that goal.

Griffiths made his briefing at the Security Council session after holding several consultations in the Middle East and meetings with various US officials in Washington.

It is the first session on Yemen in 2020.

Before his briefing on Thursday, Griffiths met with US Secretary of Defense Mark Esper on Wednesday.

Was pleased to host Mr. Martin Griffiths, Special Envoy of the [@UN](#) Secretary-General for Yemen at the Pentagon today. [@DeptofDefense](#) supports UN efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in support of regional stability. [@OSE\\_Yemen](#)  
[pic.twitter.com/PwUennFaJ9](https://pic.twitter.com/PwUennFaJ9)

– Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper (@EsperDoD) [January 15, 2020](#)

Griffiths' address came as separatists and forces loyal to the internationally-recognized government who started clashing last summer began pulling back from a key southern city, something confirmed by military officials on Thursday.

The pullout, envisaged under the Saudi-brokered Riyadh Agreement peace deal, began this week, the Yemeni officials told AP. They spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The infighting that broke out in August between the secessionists and troops loyal to Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi threatened their alliance in the Arab coalition that has been fighting against the country's Iranian-backed Houthi militia since 2015.

The fighting prompted Saudi Arabia to pressure both sides to the negotiating table in Riyadh, where they signed the peace agreement in November. Among other provisions, the deal stipulates that both sides pull out from Zinjibar, the capital of southern Abyan province.

*(With AP)*



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UN's Griffiths backs Jeddah talks between Yemeni government, southern separatists  
UN envoy Griffiths arrives in Sanaa after redeployment meetings between Yemen sides

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## [London meeting for Ukraine plane victims urges Iran to hold responsible to account](#)

Thu, 2020-01-16 12:51

LONDON: The countries whose citizens were killed when Iran shot down a Ukrainian passenger plane demanded that authorities in Tehran bring those responsible to justice through "an independent criminal investigation" on Thursday.

They said Iran must also initiate “impartial judicial proceedings which conform to international standards” against those accountable in a joint statement issued at the Canadian High Commission in London by Canada, Ukraine, Sweden, Afghanistan and Britain.

The statement issued a five-point plan for cooperation with Iran, and called on the state to recognise its duties towards the families of the victims and other parties, including compensation.

[#LIVE](#): The foreign ministers of Canada, the Netherlands, Sweden, Ukraine, Afghanistan and the UK light candles in memory of those who died in the [#UkrainianPlaneCrash](#) in London ahead of a coordination and response meeting [@CanadianUK](#)  
<https://t.co/fqHxBR0yAi> [pic.twitter.com/KHP6aMucE0](https://pic.twitter.com/KHP6aMucE0)

– Arab News (@arabnews) [January 16, 2020](#)

[#LIVE](#): A moment of silence is observed for the victims of the [#UkrainianPlaneCrash](#) at the Canadian High Commission in London [@CanadianUK](#) [@DominicRaab](#) [@IdreesZaman](#) [@VPrystaiko](#)  
<https://t.co/fqHxBR0yAi> [pic.twitter.com/KGxzSa6yQd](https://pic.twitter.com/KGxzSa6yQd)

– Arab News (@arabnews) [January 16, 2020](#)

“Families want answers, the international community wants answers, the world is waiting for answers and we will not rest until we get them,” Canada’s Foreign Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said at the meeting.

Iran said its military “unintentionally” shot down the jet on Jan. 8 killing all 176 people aboard, after initially repeatedly denying Western accusations that it was responsible.

The international coordination and response group for the families of the victims met at the High Commission of Canada in London, and was attended by the foreign ministers from Canada, Ukraine, Sweden, Afghanistan, the UK and the Netherlands.

The group also discussed the victim identification process and recommended that the process is conducted with dignity, transparency and according to international standards.

Champagne told a news conference after the meeting on Thursday that families of those who died needed closure and there was a need to prevent similar incidents in the future.

“When you accept full responsibility there are consequences coming from that,” he said.

Asked what pressure could be applied if Iran did not cooperate, Champagne said: "It's called the international community."

Meanwhile, Ukraine's foreign Minister Vadym Prystaiko said the bodies of all 11 Ukrainian citizens who died in the plane crash have been identified.

Earlier, the foreign ministers paid their respects to those who died when Iran shot down the Ukrainian airliner last week.

Canada's Francois-Philippe Champagne and Britain's Dominic Raab, with the foreign ministers of Ukraine, Sweden and Afghanistan each lit a candle to commemorate the victims at the Canadian High Commission, and paused for a moment of reflection before the meeting began.

A Ukrainian plane was shot down hours after Iran launched a ballistic missile attack on two military bases housing US troops in Iraq in retaliation for the killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani in an American airstrike in Baghdad. No one was wounded in the attack on the bases.

Among the victims of the crash were 82 Iranians, 63 Canadians, 11 Ukrainians, 10 Swedes, four Afghans, three Germans and three British nationals.





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New footage shows Iranian missiles hitting Ukraine plane  
Downing of Ukrainian plane breathes new life into Iranian protests

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## [Egypt forms a new team to investigate the death of Italian student Giulio Regeni](#)

Author:

Wed, 2020-01-15 21:00

CAIRO: Egypt formed a new team to investigate the death of an Italian student

who was tortured and murdered in Cairo in 2016, Egypt's public prosecutor's office said on Wednesday.

Giulio Regeni, a 28-year-old postgraduate student at Cambridge University, vanished in Cairo in January 2016. His body was found almost a week later and a post mortem examination showed he had been tortured before his death.

Intelligence and security sources told Reuters in 2016 that police had arrested Regeni outside a Cairo metro station and then transferred him to a compound run by Homeland Security. The police have denied this.

Egyptian public prosecutor Hamada El-Sawy told a visiting group of Italian investigators that "a new investigation team was formed and is working on studying the case," the statement said.

The team "is working on taking all the necessary investigation procedures to clarify the truth in a completely neutral and independent way," it added. The prosecutor did not say why the new committee had been formed. Italian investigators have repeatedly complained about a lack of cooperation from their Egyptian counterparts.

Egyptian investigators "heard the views" of their Italian counterparts in joint meetings over Tuesday and Wednesday, the prosecutor's office said.

The committee was formed after Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte visited Cairo on Tuesday, meeting President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi.

Egyptian officials have repeatedly denied any involvement in Regeni's killing.



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[Cambridge student Giulio Regeni](#)

Egypt refuses to accuse police over Italian student's murder  
Hijacker claims Egypt 'must have murdered' Italian student



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# Israel turns swathes of occupied West Bank into 'nature reserves'

Author:

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Wed, 2020-01-15 16:18

JERUSALEM: Israel's defense minister Wednesday announced the creation of seven nature reserves in the occupied West Bank as part of efforts to maintain Israeli control, weeks before a general election.

The sites are all located in what is known as Area C of the West Bank that includes the strategic Jordan Valley, which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in September he planned to annex.

Defense Minister Naftali Bennett, whose rightwing New Right party draws much of its support from Jewish settlers, said last week that the territory belonged to Israel and his goal was to annex it "within a short time."

In his latest move, Bennett said the Israeli-run reserves would be "under the responsibility" of the Jewish state's Nature and Parks Authority.

He also announced the expansion of 12 existing West Bank sites managed by the Israeli authority, including Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in caves between 1947 and 1956.

Bennett is seeking re-election in the March 2 elections, as part of a far-right alliance.

The Palestinian Authority was quick to condemn the latest move, accusing Bennett of "erecting a new colonial umbrella to fight the Palestinian presence in those areas."

The Palestinian foreign ministry said it would lodge complaints over the "dangerous announcement" at the United Nations and in international courts. According to Israeli settlement watchdog Peace Now, the designated reserves total about 13,000 acres (5,300 hectares), some 40 percent of it under private Palestinian ownership.

Under Israel laws regulating nature reserves, Palestinians would be forbidden to cultivate their own land, the NGO's Hagit Ofra said.

"If it's a nature reserve, then you can uproot their (Palestinians') trees and tell them they need a special permit for any agricultural activity," she told AFP.

"It will be easier now to evict Palestinians from there."

Most of the international community consider settlements on occupied Palestinian land to be illegal.

Washington, however, bucked the consensus in November when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said settlements were "not, per se, inconsistent with international law."



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Israeli defense minister seeks 'million' settlers in West Bank  
US support for Israel's West Bank settlements draws criticisms